



Elmer Willis Brown
minutes 1845


Vol. 1
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Birmingham Baptist
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MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CANAAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION:

HELD AT

ROCK CREEK MEETING HOUSE,

JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALA.,

Commencing on Saturday, October Sixth. 1855

MONTEVALLO:
HERALD BOOK AND JOB OFFICE.
1855.

POST OFFICE ADDRESS.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.—H. G. Smith, Mod. and Dom. Mis., Jonesboro'; A. G. Waldrop, Cor. Sec'y and clerk of Rock Creek Church, do.; W. H. McMath, Treasurer, Elyton; Terrel F. Waldrop, clerk, do.

OF MINISTERS.—John Dickey, Round Pond; Thos. Franklin and A. H. Blake, Trussville; Allen McDonald, Cedar Grove; Andrew J. Waldrop and Joseph Byers, Rockville; Owen Franklin and Nelson Skelton, Jonesboro'.

OF CLERKS OF CHURCHES.—J. A. Pope, Free Chapel, Ashville; Mt. Zion, Henry Riggs, Springville; Bethel, Wm. Chennault, Round Pond; Salem, Robt. H. Erwin, Mount Pinson; Central, Thos. A. Melton, Cahaba, Dyer Talley, Trussville; Hebron, J. J. Byers, Cedar Grove; Good Hope, Daniel Cannon, Liberty, Jas. H. Williams, Elyton; Union, Rufus C. Rockett, Canaan, John Moses, Mud Creek, Rawley Stone, Big Creek, John H. Waldrop, Jonesboro'; Roop's Valley, Pinckney Herring, Prude's Creek, Sam'l R. Waldrop, McMath's; Friendship, Wm. E. Beck, Jasper.

The Tuscaloosa Association will hold its next meeting with Spring Hill church, 27 miles northwest of Tuscaloosa, near the Moore's Bridge Road, commencing Saturday before the 3d Sabbath in September, 1856.

We have no other showing when other Associations will meet next year.

MINUTES:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1855.

1. The Twenty-Second Annual Session of the Canaan Association was held with the Rock Creek Church, according to appointment. The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder H. G. Smith, from Nehemiah, 4 : xix, xx.

2. After dinner, the delegates assembled in the Meeting House, the former Moderator took the chair prayed, and then organised the body.

3. On motion, brother J. F. Waldrop was appointed clerk, pro tem.

4. Letters from the following churches were read, and the persons whose names stand against said churches took their seats as representatives of the respective churches, viz :

FREE CHAPEL, : Joseph Tucker, George Pope.

MOUNT ZION, : Wiley Truss.

BETHEL, : : : Thomas Adkins.

SALEM, : : : Z. Hagood, John M. Franklin.

CENTRAL, : : : Thomas Franklin, H. H. Blake, John E. Martin, Jun.

HEBRON, : : : Allen McDonald.

CAHABA, : : : Joseph Byers, Joel Carlise.

RUHAMA, : : : W. H. McMath, John McDonald.

GOOD HOPE, : : Daniel Cannon.

LIBERTY, : : : Nelson Skelton, James H. Williams, T. F. Waldrop.

ROCK CREEK, : H. G. Smith, A. G. Waldrop, Jesse G. Huey.

BIG CREEK, : Owen Franklin, John H. Waldrop, Allen Golden.

MUD CREEK, : Curt s Howton, Elijah Rodgers, Miles J. Parsons.

UNION, : : : John B. Draper, Jephtha M. Ware, R. D. Rockett.

CANAAN, : : : Josephus Vines, Ornan Goodwin.

ROOP'S VALLEY, Daniel Burgin, Pinckney Herring.

PRUDE'S CREEK. Samuel R. Waldrop, A. D. Hamer, Wilson Burchfield.

5. Proceeded to the election of officers, and upon ballot, Elder H. G. SMITH was re-elected Moderator, J. F. WALDROP, Clerk, and A. G. WALDROP, Cor. Secretary.

6. Invited ministering brethren present to seats with us.

7. Received correspondence as follows : From the North River, a letter and package of minutes, by the hand of Elder L. B. Harbin ; from the Tuscaloosa, a letter and one copy of minutes, by the hands of brethren L. P. Lowery and G. W. Clement ; no representatives or documents received from other Associations.

8. Opened a door for the reception of newly-constituted churches, when Friendship, in Walker county, by her representatives, James Beck, William W. Wilson, and William E. Beck, presented a letter praying admission into our body, which, on her being found Orthodox, was granted, and she was attached to the 2d District.

9. Appointed Standing Committees, as follows :

On Arrangement of Business—W. Truss, J. Byers, A. McDonald, Moderator and Clerk.

On Finance—W. H. McMath, and Z. Hagood.

On S. Schools—A. G. Waldrop, J. M. Franklin, J. A. Williams, C. Houghton, P. Herring.

On Documents—Wm. E. Beck, O. Franklin, and S. R. Waldrop.

10. Appointed brethren Harbin and Smith to preach on the Sabbath, in connection with bro. Byers, who was heretofore appointed to preach the Missionary Sermon.

Appointed brethren Hagood, Burgin, and Truss, to take the "collection" on tomorrow, and agreed that the amount be equally divided between the Indian and California Missions.

12. After prayer, by Elder Harbin, adjourned till 8 o'clock, Monday.

SABBATH. Elder Harbin, of North River Association, preached in the morning, at 11 o'clock ; Elder Byers preached the Missionary Sermon, after which a collection of sixteen dollars was taken—see article 11. Brethren and friends were tented on the

ground, for the accommodation of those from a distance. Religious exercises commenced on Friday night, and continued till Tuesday night; the congregations were large and generally attentive; many seemed deeply interested in their Master's precious cause: quite a large number presented themselves at the anxious seat; several professed to find pardon for their sins; and many professors seemed revived and edified, and encouraged to press on with more energy in the Christian warfare. So sums up the happy results of the meeting. We conclude that finite beings will never be able to do more than hint at a few of the many benevolent—yea, heavenly— influences which were felt and exerted during our Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Canaan Association. It is hoped that the Churches will shake off their lukewarmness, and march forth to the help of the Lord against the mighty; for truly, "The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall;" but the blessed consolation is, our God shall fight for us.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1855.

13. The Association met, according to adjournment, a hymn sung, and prayer was offered by Elder Joseph Byers.

14. The minutes of Saturday were read; the roll was called, and absentees names stricken out.

15. Correspondence was returned to the Tuscaloosa Association by D. Burgin, J. H. Baker, and Elder H. G. Smith; to the North River Association by J. Carlise, J. H. Baker, and Elder A. J. Waldrop. Agreed to drop correspondence with the Autauga Association, on account of the distance, and our scarcity of Ministers. To the Alabama Baptist State Convention, W. H. McMath and O. W. Wood; to the Shelby Association, Hezekiah Moore, and Elder a McDonald.

16. Dispensed with the reading of the Abstract of Principles, and Rules of Decorum, because they were not present.

17. The Committee on the Arrangement of Business made their report, which was received and adopted.

18. The Committee on Documents reported as follows:

We, your Committee, find in the Minutes of the North River Association, that the times and places of the annual meetings of the several Associations with whom she corresponds are published; we therefore recommend this Association to pursue that course.

Report received and adopted.

19. Committee on Sabbath Schools made the following report:

We find this good institution apparently dead in our Association: we regret to say that there is not one Sabbath School within our bounds. Such is the condition of things in regard to one of the best institutions of the present day. We forbear making any recommendation on the subject.

Report received and Committee discharged.

20. The Committee on Finance report, in substance, as follows:

We have received from the Churches, for printing minutes, \$33 97 1-2, and for the use of this body, \$16 97 1-2; also to pay Domestic Missionary, \$144 95.

Report received and Committee discharged.

21. Called for the report of our Domestic Missionary, which was read, and a synopsis of it here follows:

I commenced my labors on the first January, labored nine months, traveled two thousand four hundred and sixty three miles, made three hundred and twenty-five pastoral visits, preached two hundred and three sermons, baptised six persons, helped constitute one church, and twenty-five persons professed religion at my meetings. I have visited all the churches except three, belonging to our body, besides traveling through and preaching to many destitute settlements. At most of the places where I have preached a deep interest was manifested; many came to the anxious seat for prayers; and I received a great many requests for preaching that was out of my power to attend to. I have met with very little opposition; the anties trying to prevent people from coming out to hear preaching is the worst difficulty that has been in my way. Where their influence extends, congregations are generally small; but their influence is on the decline: that country is fast filling up with people from the older States—several of them from Missionary Churches; hence, we should not relax our efforts, but rather increase them.

H. G. SMITH, Domestic Missionary.

22. Agreed that we pursue the same course, in regard to Domestic Missions, that we did last year.

23. Elected Elder H. G. Smith our Missionary for the next year: Ordered that he travel nine months within the year; that he be paid three hundred dollars for his services; and that he be allowed one week in each month to rest: And in order to secure sufficient funds to effect said object, one member from each Church belonging to this Association was appointed to collect funds, and forward to the next annual meeting of this body, viz: Free Chapel, George Pope; Mount Zion, Lewis W. Herring; Bethel, Thomas Chennault; Salem, John M. Franklin; Central, A. H. Blake; Hebron, Mitchell Pool; Cahaba, Joel Carlisle; Ruhama, Wm. H. Wood; Good Hope, Daniel Cannon; Liberty, James H. Williams; Rock Creek, Samuel Wilkey; Big Creek, John H. Waldrop; Mud Creek, Curtis Howton; Union, Elias Green; Canaan, Jacob H. Baker; Roop's Valley, Dan'l Burgin; Prude's Creek, Wilson Burelfield; Friendship, Wm. E. Beck.

24. Received reports of District Meetings, viz: That for the First District will be held at Mount Zion Meeting House, commencing on Friday before the second Sabbath in July, 1856; Elder J. Byers to preach the Introductory Sermon; A. J. Waldrop alternate: Elder A. J. Waldrop to preach the Missionary Sermon; J. Byers alternate. This union requests that each church belonging to the First District prepare an essay on some religious subject, to be read at its meeting, at Mount Zion. The Second District will hold its yearly meeting at Rock Creek, beginning on Friday before the Third Sabbath in July, 1856; Elder Skelton to preach the Introductory Sermon; Smith alternate: Elder Thompson to preach the Missionary Sermon; Smith alternate. This union collected \$9 60 for domestic missions, and appointed J. F. Waldrop Treasurer.

25. The next session of this Association will be held with the Salem Church, sixteen miles northerly from Elyton, and near Hanby's mill, commencing on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October, 1856. N. Skelton is by appointment to preach the Introductory Sermon; Smith alternate: A. J. Waldrop to preach the Missionary Sermon; H. G. Smith alternate.

26. Re-elected W. H. McMath to the office of Treasurer.

27. Received a circular from A. C. Dayton, Corresponding Secretary B. B. S. R. C. Ordered that the Clerk send the Bible Board of Southern Convention a copy of our minutes, and write it that we have such an organization in connection with this body.

28. Ordered that the Constitution, Abstract of Principles and Rules of Decorum of this Association, be published with the Minutes.

29. New Bethel Church having for two years failed to represent herself in this body, therefore be it resolved,

That we appoint a committee of the following brethren, viz: N. Skelton, H. G. Smith, and A. G. Waldrop, to visit said church, and request her to give her reasons for such failure—the committee to report at our next annual meeting.

30. QURE. Is it right to dissolve a Church without the aid of a Presbytery? No.

31. Ordered that corresponding messengers from this to other Associations, receive, hereafter, one dollar per day.

32. Ordered that the clerk have as many minutes printed as the funds on hand will procure; that he retain 100 copies for correspondence; that he distribute the others among the churches; and that he be paid Ten Dollars for his services.

33. Having finished the business before the Association, a hymn was sung, and prayer was offered by Elder Byers, and the association adjourned to the time and place above mentioned.

HENRY G. SMITH, Moderator.

TERREL F. WALDROP, Clerk.

ARTICLES OF CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This body shall be known by the name of the Canaan Association of United Baptists.

2. It shall be formed of Delegates from all the Churches, who may connect themselves with this Union.

3. Any Church may be admitted into this Association, by the general consent of the delegates present at any regular meeting.

4. Any Church may withdraw from this body, at its own discretion, on application for dismissal.

5. This Association may, at any regular meeting, declare a dissolution of union with any Church deemed corrupt, either in doctrine or practice.

6. Any Church in this Association with fifty members or under, may send three delegates, and an additional one for every fifty after the first fifty.

7. At each session of the Association, a Moderator, a Recording and Corresponding Sec'y shall be chosen by ballot, and hold their offices till successors are elected.

8. The meeting of the delegates shall be held on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October, of each year, and should occasion require, on their adjournment.

9. The design of this body is to promote the cause of true religion within the several churches of which it is, or may be, composed, by domestic missions, the education of pious and promising young men, hopefully called of God to the ministry, and by other benevolent plans, so far as the churches may enable them, by their voluntary contributions.

10. In addition to the objects specified in the foregoing article, this Association will extend its favorable regard to all the benevolent plans now cherished and supported by Evangelical Christians.

11. As it respects the internal concerns of the churches, this body shall have no authority, but shall be considered merely as an advisory counsel.

12. As it respects our external or general concerns, and for the mutual benefit of the churches composing this Union, it shall be the duty of each church to forward with their delegates, a written communication to every annual meeting of this Association, specifying the names of their delegates, and the state of their church.

13. Any church being thoroughly convinced that she has a member called of the Lord to the work of the ministry, and feeling it her duty to send him out to preach the gospel, shall call from two or more churches the aid of their ministers, who, in connection with the church, shall examine the candidate, and if deemed qualified, may license him to preach the gospel among the churches at discretion; which shall be reported to the Association, and entered on the minutes.

14. Any church in this body having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches, to officiate in the work; and all presbyteries in ordaining ministers or deacons, or in constituting churches, shall be governed by the abstract of principles adopted by this association.

15. The business of this association shall be (when deemed necessary) committed to a board of thirteen managers, seven of whom shall constitute a quorum to transact business, and make report to the next session of the association.

16. The delegates from the churches shall be considered as holding their appointments until others are chosen to succeed them.

17. This constitution may be altered or amended, by two-thirds of the delegates present at any annual meeting.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1. We believe in one only, true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost. 2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testaments, are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 3. We believe in the doctrine of election, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. 5. We believe in man's incapacity, by his own free will and ability to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature. 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only. 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. 8. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never fall finally away. 9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and true believers are the only subjects of baptism, and that immersion is the apostolic mode. 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the general judgment; and that the felicity of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal. 11. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel but one who is regularly baptised, called, and come under the imposition of the hands of the Presbytery. 12. We believe that none but regularly baptised members have a right to commune at the Lord's supper.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer. 2. A moderator and clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the number present. 3. The moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretionary right to call to order at any time. 4. Any member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the association on the same day, but at no other time. 5. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and, on obtaining permission, proceed; which permission shall be signified by the moderator's naming the person, or otherwise. 6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject; and every motion made and seconded (in order) shall come under the consideration of the Association, and be decided on, unless withdrawn by him who made it. 7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on, or withdrawn before another shall be offered. 8. When a question is taken up, and sufficient time allowed for debate, the moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject, and those in the affirmative of the question shall signify the same by holding up the right hand, (then, if need be, reverse the question) and pronounce the decision before the standers resume their seats. 9. The Association shall be governed in all cases by a majority, except in the reception and exclusion of Churches, which shall be by two-thirds, at least, of the members present. 10. No member shall speak more than twice to the same proposition, without leave of the Association; nor more than three times without the concurrence of three-fourths of the members; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject till the debates have been carried through. 11. The appellation of brother, shall be used in the Association by members, in their addresses to one another. 12. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain leave of the moderator. 13. The names of the delegates shall be called as often as the Association may direct. 14. No members shall be tolerated in any practice which has a tendency to interrupt public speaking. 15. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member; provided, he appoint another member to his seat during the time; but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided. 16. Any member violating these rules shall be reprov'd at the discretion of the moderator, but only on the day the breach shall have been made. 17. The rules shall be read at the opening of every session of the Association, and may be altered or amended when two-thirds of the members present, at any annual meeting, may deem it necessary. 18. [Added in 1835.] The moderator shall appoint committees for the transaction of any business that may come before the Association from time to time; but the occasion and number of each committee shall be by consent of the members.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES	CONTY.	Baptized,	Received by Letter,	Dismissed by Letter,	Restored,	Excluded,	Deceased,	Present Number,	Sent up for Minutes,	Sent up for Associational Purposes,	Domestic Missionary Fund,	Sabbath of Meeting,	PASTORS.	
1ST DISTRICT.														
Free Chapel,	St. Clair:	2						15	\$1 00	\$ 25	\$3 70		John Dickey.	
Mount Zion,	" :	5	3	9	1	2	2	93	3 00	1 00	16 70	2	A. J. Waldrop.	
Bethel, :::::	" :	12	7	1	1			68	2 00	90		3	T. Franklin. { John Dickey.	
Salem, :::::	Jefferson:							53	1 25	1 00		3	A. J. Waldrop.	
Central, :::::	" :	1	7	3		2	1	53	1 50	50	7 25		J. Byers.	
Hebron, :::::	" :	1	6	4	3			106	4 00	50	13 00		A. J. Waldrop.	
Cahaba, :::::	" :	2	2	6	1	2		75	2 00	2 00	15 00		J. Byers.	
Ruhama, :::::	" :	7	4	7	4	3		168	4 00	3 00	32 00	4	A. J. Waldrop.	
2D DISTRICT.														
New Bethel, :	" :	Not Represented.												
Good Hope, :	" :	2	6				1	12	50					N. Skeltor.
Liberty, :::::	" :		1		4			43	1 00	50		2	N. Skelton.	
Rock Creek, :	" :	6	4	3	1	2		69	2 00	2 00	30 00	3	H. G. Smith.	
Big Creek, :::	" :	1		7				51	1 50	1 00		1	O. Franklin.	
Mud Creek, :::	" :	3						49	2 02	87		4	O. Franklin.	
Union, :::::	" :	1						49	1 00	1 00		2	J. Byers.	
Canaan, :::::	" :	13	2	8				58	1 10			3	A. C. Thomason	
Roop's Valley	Tuscaloosa	21	4	2		2		72	3 00	1 00			A. C. Thomason	
Prude's Creek	" :							42	1 50	1 00			O. Franklin.	
Friendship, :	Walker. :	2						8	1 00	50	70	1		
Totals, :::::		71	40	59	2	21	12	1084	\$33 97	\$17 02	118 35			

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO DOMESTIC MISSION FUND.

Pinckney Herring, 1 00; Daniel Burgin, 5 00; Z. Hagood, 5 00; M. Hagood, 2 00; J. M. Franklin, 1 00; Thos. Adkins, 1 00; S. R. Waldrop, 2 00; Treasurer of Second District, 9 60—26 60. Total contributions for Domestic Missions, \$144 95

LIST OF OFFICERS OF THE CANAAN A. BAPTIST BIBLE SOCIETY.

H. G. Smith, President; J. H. Baker, Vice President; W. H. McMath, Treasurer; T. F. Waldrop, Secretary; Z. Hagood, D. Burgin, and S. T. Huey, B'd Managers. J. H. Baker to deliver the annual address next year. A. H. Blake, O. W. Wood, W. H. McMath, and J. H. Baker, Delegates to S. B. S.







